US Agency for International Development (USAID)
Moldova
Environmental Review Checklist (ERC) and
Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP)

1. Activity and Site Information

Project Name: (as stated in the IEE):	Future Technologies Activity (FTA)
Mission/Country:	USAID/Moldova
DCN of Original IEE:	2021-MOL-011
DCNs of IEE Amendments	2021-MOL-011-002 & 2021-MOL-011-003
Activity/Site/Grantee Name:	Future Technologies Activity (FTA) Program Annual Program Statement (APS) no. APS-2022-002 Grantee: AO DNT (Grant No. FAA-085).
Activity Authorization from IEE:	Component 2. Sub-activity 2.2. Create partnerships with educational institutions and business service providers to create demand-driven workforce.
Type of Activity:	Fixed Amount Award grant
Implementing Partner:	Chemonics International, Inc.
Name and Organization of Preparer:	Ala Donica, PhD, FTA Environmental Compliance Consultant
Date Prepared:	June, 19, 2023

The ERC/EMMP is intended for use by implementing partners to:

- assess activity-specific baseline conditions, including applicable environmental requirements;
- identify potential adverse environmental effects associated with planned activities; and
- develop EMMPs that can effectively avoid or adequately minimize the identified effects.

The IEE requirement to prepare an ERC/EMMP may be fulfilled by substituting a Simplified Environmental Review Form (SERF) for the ERC/EMMP, provided that the proposed activity meets all of the Restrictive Conditions in the SERF.

If implementing partners are in doubt about whether a planned activity requires preparation of an ERC, they should contact their Contracting Officer's Representative (COR)/Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) for clarification. In turn, the COR/AOR should contact their Mission Environmental Officer (MEO) if they have any questions. In special circumstances and with approval of the BEO it is possible to have one very comprehensive ERC/EMMP for multiple sub-activities if they are similar in scope. *(When preparing the ERC/EMMP, please indicate "not applicable" for items that have no bearing on the activity.) The ERC/EMMP should be completed by an environmental specialist.* ***The ERC/EMMP must be completed and approved prior to the activity beginning.****)*

2. Activity Description

2.1. Activity purpose

The Moldova Future Technologies Activity (FTA) is a five-year project financed by USAID and Sweden and implemented by Chemonics International Inc. The purpose of FTA is to enhance the competitiveness of Moldova's transformative sectors, including light manufacturing, ICT, precision engineering, creative industries, and digital media production. This grant is awarded based on unrestricted eligibility and competition in response to the Annual Program Statement (APS) no. APS-2022-002, released by Future Technologies Activity (FTA) Program on December 5, 2022, to support:

1) businesses to identify and scale innovations that disrupt their business model, generate added value, and by introducing know-how, new technologies, methods, or products/services; and

2) business support organizations, that seek to utilize an innovative approach to increase entrepreneurship, innovation ecosystems, and competitiveness; expand market linkages to high-value markets; build a high-capacity digitally driven workforce; and advocate for a better business ecosystem. The grants is awarded and is implemented in accordance with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US Government regulations governing grants under contracts and FTA's internal grant management policies.

The APS requires a one-stage application process. All interested applicants must submit a full grant application, including all annexes. Following the submission of full applications and FTA's confirmation that the applicant meets the eligibility criteria. FTA invites applicants to participate in co-creation workshops with FTA. The project will review applications on a rolling basis.

As a result of this process, one of the beneficiaries is:

AO DNT, established in 1999 with support of the Soros Foundation in Moldova, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the Information Technologies and Communications sector. The purpose of the center is to offer quality studies in the IT field with high technical accuracy. The quality of training is due to the attraction of IT professionals. The training is based on programs developed and approved by top companies in the IT world such as Cisco Systems, VMware, Linux Professional Institute and Android Advanced Center Consultants. Training programs prepare students for internationally recognized certification exams. In 1999, DNT joined the Cisco Networking Academy training program. The program is spread in over 160 countries of the world and attracts over one million students annually. In 2004, DNT was named the best local academy in the region. In 2006, DNT became a regional Cisco Academy, and later it was accredited by the Cisco Networking Academy program as an Instructor Training Center (ITC) and Academy Support Center (ASC). DNT instructors regularly earn awards and honors through the Cisco Networking Academy program. In 2013, DNT participated in the "Framework of Excellence" study at the Cisco Networking Academy initiative. The purpose of the study was to identify the best practices in successful academies for the development of recommendations and suggestions for newly created academies. DNT students were the winners of local and international competitions. DNT also offers employment opportunities through its partners, and the best students take advantage of these opportunities. In 2012, DNT obtained VMware academy status through the VITA - VMware IT Academy Program. In 2014, DNT obtained the Android Training Center academy status through the Android Advanced Center Consultants program. All these statutes allow DNT to offer courses for beginners and already-trained specialists. In 2008, with the support of the USAID program, DNT initiated a Cisco training program in schools, high schools, colleges, and universities. Later with the help of the Ministry of Education, the USIAD CEED projects, and the Association of IT Companies (ATIC), DNT managed to implement several optional courses in a series of secondary and higher education institutions.

FTA aims to offer a fixed-amount grant to DNT to assist in ***establishing a Cisco Academy at the State University "Alecu Russo" in Balti*** (USARB), located at the NORTEK Innovation and Technology Transfer Center. The Cisco Academy at USARB will be equipped with state-of-the-art practical equipment. Initially, three trained instructors will deliver courses such as Cisco CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate), CCNP (Cisco Certified Network Professional), and Network Security. In the 2023-2024 academic year, three groups of ten students will undergo training in the CCNA course, enabling them to obtain a certificate from the internationally recognized Cisco Academy and their USARB diploma.

The proposed activities aim to integrate innovative technologies into the educational process at USARB. Until now, the study programs at Alecu Russo State University in Balti did not include educational offerings from renowned international vendors.

Once the grant is approved, USARB and DNT will sign a Memorandum of Collaboration outlining their activities for the next 24 months.

2.2. Direct Beneficiaries, e.g., size of community, number of school children, etc.

Through the established Cisco Academy at the State University "Alecu Russo" in Balti (USARB), located at the NORTEK Innovation and Technology Transfer Center, DNT plans to achieve the following aspects by the end of the grant (which align with FTA's performance indicators):

- Access to three new courses with international certifications that will be available for the first time to students – Cisco CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate), CCNP (Cisco Certified Network Professional), and Network Security. In the 2023-2024 academic year, three groups of ten students will undergo courses.
- Number of training hours CCNA – 210 hours, CCNP – 140 hours, Network Security – 70 hours. The number of hours is the minimum recommended by Cisco Systems and the NETACAD program.
- At least three innovations corresponding to the number of new courses implemented. In addition, all three courses have a direct impact on public and private sector enterprises through the quality of specialists who will ensure the creation, securing, and administration of computer networks.

2.3. Number of existing employees and annual revenue, if this is a business.

Is not a business. DNT is a local NGO founded by three members: Dumitru Chitoaroaga, Anatol Gremalschi, and Dona Scola. The Administrative Director of the organization is Vitalie Bordeniuc. The company has six full-time employees and seven part-time employees. The organization has a well-developed organizational structure and includes Course Director, Accountant and Innovation Specialist and seven trainers.

2.4. Implementation timeframe and schedule

The duration of the grant is 24 months (August 2023- end of July 2025).

2.5. Detailed description of activity

2.5.1. Steps that will be taken to accomplish the activity, including mobilization, site preparation, site restoration, and demobilization, if applicable;

The grant activities will encompass the following:

1. **Cisco instructor training:** As part of the grant, the initial focus will be training of three Cisco instructors selected from the IT faculty at USARB. These candidates will undergo a comprehensive training program, beginning with the CCNA course and progressing to CCNP and Network Security. Upon completion of their training, the instructors will be authorized to deliver these courses within their respective educational institutions.

2. **Establishment of the Cisco USARB/NORTEK Academy:** Following the enrollment of USARB instructors in the Cisco training program and their successful registration on the educational platform netacad.com, the process of creating and registering the Cisco USARB/NORTEK Academy commences. Once established and registered on the netacad.com platform, the Academy operates independently, serving as an internal institution to meet the educational needs of USARB by offering courses to its students and teachers. Additionally, the Academy can provide training services to external individuals and organizations outside the university program. The Academy has the flexibility to form mixed groups of students comprising its students, individuals, and representatives from companies participating under commercial agreements. This approach allows the Academy to cover its operational costs. Moreover, the USARB/NORTEK Academy can collaborate in various projects or submit its initiatives.

3. **Provision of Equipment for the Cisco USARB/NORTEK Academy:** The Cisco USARB/NORTEK Academy will be furnished with a comprehensive equipment kit specifically designed for practical training purposes. This kit consists of the latest generation of equipment exclusively intended for training activities within Cisco Academies. Additionally, an identical equipment kit will be located at the DNT office. The uniformity of the equipment is crucial to ensure

seamless interconnection and facilitate laboratory lessons or assist the instructor in Balti during practical sessions. Unfortunately, the existing equipment at DNT, being of an older generation, lacks the necessary technical capabilities to fulfill the proposed practical tasks. Therefore, identical equipment becomes essential for effectively implementing the training program.

4. **Provision of Laptops for Training:** A study room will be equipped with 11 laptops to train USARB instructors and students. Once the project is completed, FTA will transfer all the equipment to USARB at no cost to support the continuous operation of the Cisco NORTEK Academy. To facilitate seamless connectivity and practical training, it is proposed to establish an identical study room at the Cisco DNT Academy, equipped with the same computing technology as the laboratory equipment kits. This arrangement will simplify and enhance the training process for students from Bălţi, as the instructor from Chişinău will be able to clone the study room and easily monitor the progress of each student.

5. **Student Training:** Once the trainers have completed the Cisco CCNA initial module course the trainees' selection process begins among USARB students in their final years of study. The proposal is to train three groups, each consisting of ten students. The training sessions will be conducted by DNT instructors, with assistance from USARB trainers who have already completed the first module of the CCNA course. This arrangement allows the USARB trainers to expand their knowledge and skills through the Cisco NETACAD educational program and their regular teaching responsibilities. Furthermore, FTA suggested that upon completion of the CCNA course, students undertake a course specifically focused on optical fiber fusion, a subject requested by employers in the Republic of Moldova but not included in the Cisco program. Acquiring these skills would enable students to contribute to maintaining the computer network at USARB, utilizing their newly acquired expertise.

6. **Identification of Potential Future Instructors:** As part of the USARB student-training program, a process will be implemented to identify individuals with the necessary skills and aptitude to become future instructors at the Cisco USARB Academy. Through careful evaluation and assessment within the training process, individuals demonstrating exceptional abilities and proficiency in the relevant areas will be identified and considered for potential roles as instructors within the Academy. This approach aims to nurture talent from within USARB and provide opportunities for skilled individuals to contribute to developing and delivering future courses at the Academy.

7. **Provision of Ongoing Support by DNT as an Academy Support Center (ASC):** DNT will extend continuous support to USARB to effectively implement of the training and administrative processes of the Cisco Academy. Recognizing that this is a new undertaking for USARB instructors, a period of adjustment will be required to familiarize them with the administration system, including tasks such as creating student groups, enrolling students, activating assessments, and more. Additionally, DNT will serve as an intermediary between USARB and Cisco Systems, assisting with complex issues related to equipment delivery, technical maintenance, and integrating new instructors into activities and events organized by Cisco. Financial sustainability is a crucial aspect of running a successful Cisco Academy. DNT Academy will share its expertise in operating as an autonomous economic entity in this regard. This includes guidance on attracting customers, preparing commercial offers, determining course rates, presenting contract models for individuals and legal entities, and other relevant aspects. By sharing this experience, DNT aims to support USARB in establishing a financially viable and self-sustaining Cisco Academy.

FTA *selected the Fixed-Amount Award* as the most appropriate grant mechanism given the nature of the proposed activities and costs, as well as DNT's capacity. DNT employs a full-time accountant and is able to track and segregate expenditures among different sources. The company uses 1C and Sirius

to keep track of its accounting and expenditures. The company creates monthly, quarterly, and annual financial reports for all the stakeholders. DNT will be required to develop written procurement manuals based on templates provided by FTA.

2.5.2. Items that will be purchased (This section should fully describe any items, materials, or supplies that will be purchased)

Chemonics confirms that all cost elements have been reviewed for reasonableness and allow ability in accordance with the applicable cost principles. A comprehensive cost analysis was performed prior to the award including a comprehensive review of cost breakdowns, verification of cost data, evaluation of specific elements of costs, and examining data to determine the necessity, reasonableness, and allocability of the costs reflected in the budget.

The cost analysis took into account the extent of the grantee's understanding of the financial aspects of the program, the grantee's ability to perform the grant activities with the funds requested, the extent to which the grantee's plans will accomplish the program objectives with reasonable economy and efficiency.

Major line items for ***AO DNT****,* provided through project:

a) Activity Service Delivery

This line item, covered by FTA and grantee contribution will include the costs related to the trainings, namely:

CCNA Instructor Courses: Three USARB professors will be trained to become Cisco CCNA instructors. The training sessions will be conducted twice a week, lasting approximately three hours. The overall duration of the course is expected to span eight months.

CCNP Courses for Instructors: In addition to the CCNA training, three teachers from USARB will also undergo training to become Cisco CCNP instructors, focusing on advanced topics within the professional field. The CCNP course is designed for individuals who have already completed the CCNA course and possess fundamental routing and switching skills and knowledge. CCNP course lasts 12 months, with training sessions scheduled twice a week, each lasting 3 hours.

Network Security Courses for Instructors: Three teachers from USARB will undergo training to become Cisco Network Security instructors, a course that will also enable them to enhance the security of the USARB computer network. The duration of the course is 4 months, following the standard training format of two sessions per week, with each session lasting 3 hours. Cisco Network Security, the latest course introduced by Cisco Systems, aims to gradually replace the CCNA Security course (more information can be found at https://www.netacad.com/courses/cybersecurity/network-security).The course is designed for individuals who possess foundational knowledge in networking and wish to specialize in the field of computer network security.

CCNA Courses for USARB Students: Three groups, each consisting of ten USARB students, will be formed to undergo training as CCNA specialists. The student training will be conducted concurrently with the training of USARB teachers as Cisco instructors. Each USARB teacher will be enrolled in a student group as a secondary instructor, providing assistance and instructor rights during the training process. Based on the performance displayed within the student groups, those students who demonstrate exceptional success in their studies will be selected and proposed for collaboration as instructors.

Academy Support: The academy support provided will encompass resolving technical and administrative issues that may arise during the operation of the Cisco Nortek Academy, including on-site visits to Balti city over 24 months. This support will entail assisting for 16 hours per month to the USARB teachers. Additionally, one trip per month will be made from Chisinau to Balti, involving an instructor and the DNT administrator, with lunch provided for five people (two from DNT and three USARB instructors).

b) Travel and Transportation

This line item, which is covered by the FTA and grantee contribution, includes the costs associated with grant activities. FTA Contribution:

- Meals: The three USARB teachers, along with the two DNT instructors and the DNT administrator, will have a total of 6 visits to Chisinau, during which they will require breakfast and lunch.
- Travel Expenses: The three USARB trainers will need to travel between Balti and Chisinau for their visits. Additionally, there will be a requirement to transport the Cisco equipment kit, its accessories, and the fiber optic welding machine from Chisinau to Balti. Renting a cargo car for this purpose will incur travel cost.

c) Goods and materials

FTA will cover the costs of required CISCO equipment and laptops necessary for training.

The grant activities include the procurement of various equipment and accessories to support the training process. Here are the items and their respective descriptions:

Two Cisco Lab Kits (CCNA, CCNP, Security set): These laboratory kits will be purchased from companies authorized to sell Cisco equipment in the Republic of Moldova. The kits include necessary equipment for CCNA, CCNP, and Security courses. They will be placed in the USARB study class and the DNT laboratory, and they will be interconnected to facilitate the training process.

Two Laboratory Kit Accessories (set): These accessories are required for the installation and connection of the laboratory kits. They include racks and additional tools to ensure proper setup and functionality.

Optical Fiber Welding Device: This device will be used during study hours and to maintain the USARB computer network. It allows for precise and reliable fusion of optical fibers.

Accessories for Fiber Optic Welding Machine: These accessories are necessary for the proper functioning and maintenance of the fiber optic welding machine.

13 Laptops: In addition to the equipment for practical classes, 11 laptops will be procured for students, and one laptop will be provided for the instructor at USARB. Additionally, two laptops will be available at DNT. These laptops will be used strictly for training purposes and will be sent to USARB at the end of the project. The goal is to create two training classes, one in Balti (USARB) and another in Chisinau (DNT), allowing for interconnected equipment kits and individual workstations. This setup will enable a greater degree of connection between the instructor in Chisinau and the students in Balti, as the study hall in Balti can be cloned in the Chisinau laboratory.

2.5.3. What entity will be responsible for the maintenance or sustainability of the activity after completion or handover?

The proposed activities aim to integrate innovative technologies into the educational process at USARB, how until now, the study programs at Alecu Russo State University in Balti did not include educational offerings from renowned international vendors. Thus, once the grant is approved, USARB and DNT will sign a Memorandum of Collaboration outlining their activities for the next years, with the indication of ownership aspects, division of tasks and responsibilities.

Once the project is completed, FTA will transfer all the equipment to USARB at no cost to support the continuous operation of the Cisco NORTEK Academy.

2.6. Location of activity, e.g. name of village or town, street address, province.

Established Cisco Academy at the State University "Alecu Russo" in Balti (USARB) will be located at the NORTEK Innovation and Technology Transfer Center.

Address: 38 Puskin, street, Balti Town, USARB.

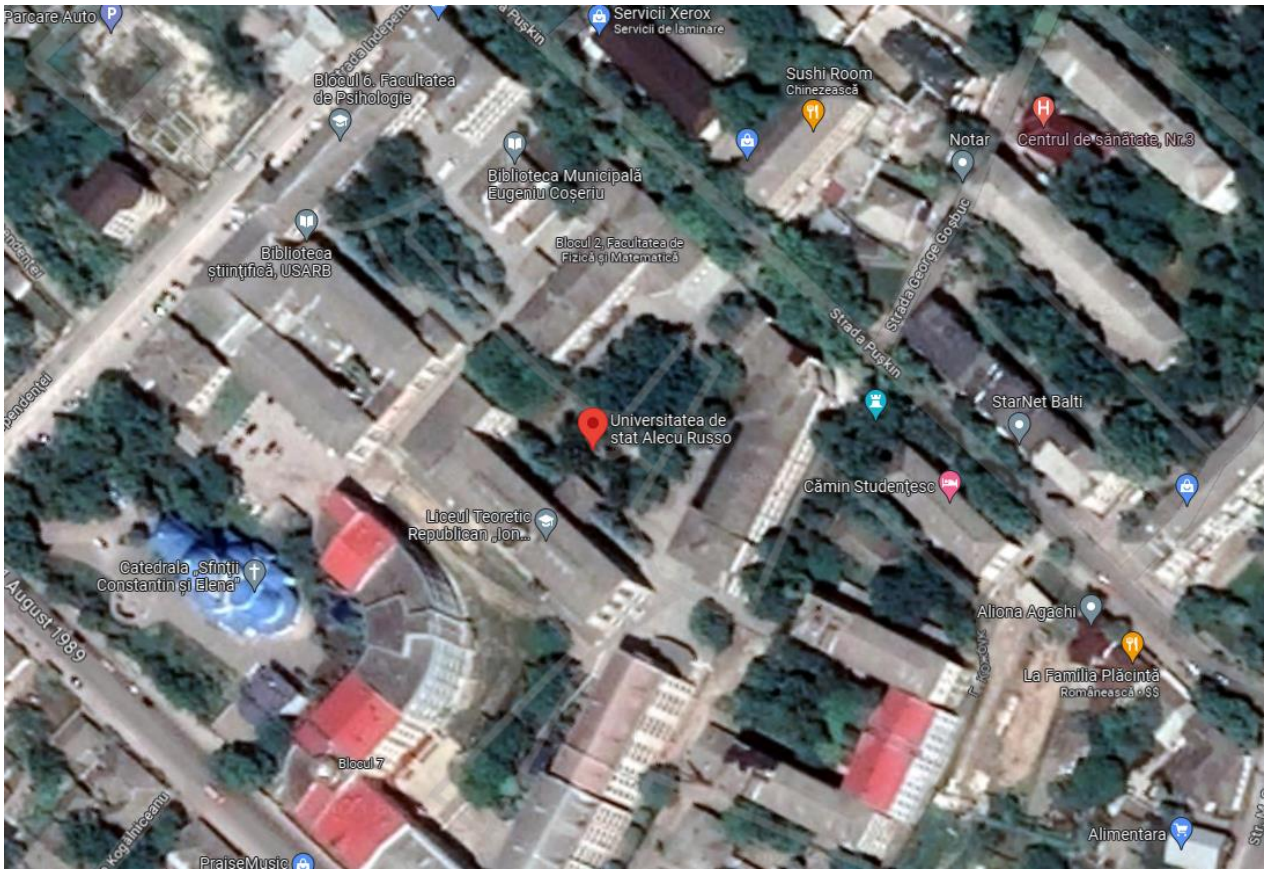
2.7. Detailed description of site

2.7.1. Existing setting, e.g., urban, village, agricultural, or undisturbed land.

The Cisco Academy will use the spaces of the the NORTEK Innovation and Technology Transfer Center, located in the State University "Alecu Russo" in Balti (USARB).

2.7.2. Size of the facility or hectares of land

Site map, e.g., provide an image from Google Earth (or similar) of the project site (include latitude and longitude coordinates).



The State University "Alecu Russo" in Balti
Geographical coordinates: 47°45'16.8"N 27°55'18.0"E

2.8. Photos of site, items to be purchased, engineering construction plans *(when available). N/A.*

3. Activity-Specific Baseline Environmental Conditions

3.1. Population characteristics

According to the National Bureau of Statistics data (2022), the population of the Balti municipality was about 98.2 thousand inhabitants.

3.2. Geography

According to the physical geographical regionalization of the Republic of Moldova, the territory of Balti municipality is located in the *steppe plain of the Lower Cubolta*, which occupies the southern part of the Răut river basin, a plain also known as the Bălților Plain. Its surface holds 5.94% of the surface of the republic. The relief represents a weakly fragmented plain, with an average altitude of 160 m. Among the modeling processes, erosion stands out on the surface, less often torrential and landslides.

3.3. Climate

Temperate climate, with mild winters and warm summers. On the Balti Plain about 500 mm of precipitation fall annually, of which about 400 mm fall during the vegetation period. The average temperature in January varies from -4.0 to -4.5^0 C and in July, it is around 20^0 C.

3.4. Natural resources, e.g., nearby forest/protected areas, ground and surface water resources.

In the north-west part of the Balti city, about 4 km away from the University of Balti, there is a protected area - the Resource Reserve "Typical chernozem of the forest-steppe area from northern Moldova" (4 ha). In the eastern part of the Balti city, about 2 km away from the University, flows the Raut River.

3.5. Current land use and owner of land.

Buildings, spaces are in the property of the State University "Alecu Russo" in Balti.

3.6. Other relevant description of current environmental conditions in proximity to the activity. N/A.

4. Legal, Regulatory, and Permitting Requirements

4.1. Does this activity require an EIA under a national law? No.
4.2. Applicable National or local permits for this activity, responsible party, and schedule for obtaining them:

Permit Type	Responsible party	Schedule
Zoning	N/A	N/A
Building/Construction	N/A	N/A
Source Material Extraction	N/A	N/A
Waste Disposal	N/A	N/A
Wastewater	N/A	N/A
Storm Water Management	N/A	N/A
Air Quality	N/A	N/A
Water Use	N/A	N/A
Wetlands or Water bodies	N/A	N/A
Threatened or Endangered Species	N/A	N/A
Other	N/A	N/A

4.3. Will the activity be required to adhere to formal engineering designs/plans? No.
If yes, attach the designs or plans to this ERC/EMMP.

4.3.1. Have the designs or plans been or will they be developed by a qualified engineer? N/A.

5. Land use changes and land impacts

5.1. Will the activity change the land use, e.g., undeveloped, agricultural, residential, commercial, or industrial?	No.
5.2. Will the activity require temporary or permanent property land taking?	No.
5.3. Will the activity involve site preparation, e.g., clearing and grubbing, grading?	No.
5.4. Will the activity involve onsite excavation or trenching?	No.
5.5. Will the activity involve the use of borrow pits or quarries? If so, describe the siting, operation, and closure plans.	No.
5.6. Will the activity interfere with or connect to existing aboveground or below-ground utilities, e.g., electricity, communications, water, sewer, or natural gas? The rooms that will be used for the Cisco courses are already connected to all utilities necessary for its activities, including electricity, water, sewerage, ventilation, etc.	No.

5.7. Will the activity involve installation of new aboveground or below-ground utilities, e.g., electricity, communications, water, sewer, or natural gas? Installation of additional parts of electrical system net are possible. However, any updates to the electrical system are envisioned to use the spaces already occupied/ predestined for these materials/connections, so the interventions will be minor. USARB will monitor the performance of the works in terms of quality, time, and compliance with all security and environmental protection requirements. The employees overseeing the installation of new cables within electrical systems and connection of purchased items to it will guarantee for the performed works.	Maybe.
5.8. Will the activity result in mineral extraction, e.g., aggregate, stone, or coal?	No.
5.9. Will the activity result in hydrocarbon extraction, e.g., oil, or natural gas?	No.
5.10. Are there known geological hazards, e.g., faults, landslides, or unstable soils which could affect the activity? If yes, how will the project ensure structural integrity?	No.

6. Impacts to forestry, biodiversity, protected areas, and endangered species

6.1. Is the site located adjacent to or near a protected area, national park, nature preserve, or wildlife refuge? In the north-west part of the Balti city, about 4 km away from the University of Balti, there is a protected area - the Resource Reserve "Typical chernozem of the forest-steppe area from northern Moldova" (4 ha). However, the activity proposed under the grant will not influence the existed protected area.	Yes.
6.2. Is the site located in or near threatened or endangered (T&E) species habitat?	No.
6.2.1. If yes, describe the plan for identifying T&E species during activity implementation. (Non-yes/no question)	
6.2.2. If yes, describe the formal process for halting work, avoiding impacts, and notifying authorities if T&E species are identified during implementation.	
6.3. Is the site located in a migratory bird flight or other animal migratory pathway?	No.
6.4. Will the activity involve harvesting of non-timber forest products, e.g., mushrooms, medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs), herbs, or woody debris?	No.
6.5. Will the activity involve tree removal or logging?	No.
6.6. Will activities result in increased outdoor noise on a continuous or frequent basis at sound levels that disturb wildlife?	No.
6.7. Will activities result in light pollution, which could adversely affect the natural environment?	No.

7. Water and water quality impacts

7.1. List any National, European Union, or other international water discharge regulations or standards applicable to this activity. (Non-yes/no question) Law No.272/2011 of waters.	
7.2. How far is the site located from the nearest river, stream, or lake? (Non-yes/no question). In the eastern part of the Balti city, about 2 km away from the University (USARB), flows the Raut River.	

7.3. Is the site located in a floodplain?	No.
7.4. Will the activity increase the risk of flooding at the site or on other property?	No.
7.5. Will the activity disturb wetland, lacustrine, or riparian areas?	No.
7.6. Will the site require excavation within, placing of fill in, or substrate removal (e.g., gravel) from a river, stream, or lake?	No.
7.7. What is the depth to groundwater at the site? (Non-yes/no question) In Balti, the underground waters belong to Badenian- Sarmatian aquifer complex. In general, the aquifer horizon from the alluvial clays, on the Raut river interfluve, has a water depth between 3-20 m.	
7.8. Will the activity cause interference with the current drainage systems or conditions?	No.
7.9. Will the activity result in new or increased ground or surface water extraction? If yes, describe the expected volumes and the permit requirements.	No.
7.10. Will the activity discharge domestic or industrial sewage to surface water, groundwater, or a publicly owned treatment facility?	No.
7.11. Will the activity change storm water runoff volume, intensity, or locations? If so, describe how the designs/plans effectively and comprehensively address the management of storm water runoff and its effects.	No.
7.12. Is there potential for discharge of potentially contaminated (including suspended solids) runoff?	No.
7.13. Will the activity result in the runoff of pesticides, fertilizers, or toxic chemicals into surface water or groundwater?	No.
7.14. Will the activity involve the use or onsite storage of liquid fuels? If yes, describe the fuel type(s), quantities, storage conditions, and spill control procedures.	No.
7.15. Will the activity result in discharge of effluent containing livestock wastes such as manure or blood?	No.

8. Atmospheric and air quality impacts

8.1. List any National, European Union, or other international air emission regulations or standards applicable to this activity. Law No. 1422/1997 on the protection of atmospheric air.	
8.2. Will the activity result in increased emission of air pollutants from a vent or as fugitive releases, e.g., soot, sulfur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, volatile organic compounds, or methane?	No.
8.3. Will the activity involve burning of fossil fuels?	No.
8.4. Will the activity involve burning of wood or biomass?	No.
8.5. Will the activity install, operate, maintain, or decommission systems containing ozone depleting substances, e.g., freon or other refrigerants?	No.
8.6. Will the activity generate an increase in carbon emissions?	No.
8.7. Will the activity increase odor on a continuous or frequent basis?	No.
8.8. Will the activity generate dust on a continuous or frequent basis?	No.

8.9. Will the activity increase the risk of fire, explosion, or hazardous airborne chemical releases? Operation of electrical equipment during courses, as well as the installation of IT equipment, will slightly increase the risk of fire, only if the fire prevention measures will not be respected. FTA will recommend that USARB use or install surge protectors for any equipment that might require connection to an electricity source to reduce any minimal risk of fire. USARB will also be encouraged to ensure proper ventilation of areas with a high concentration of IT equipment. In addition, it is required that the spaces intended for future practical courses be equipped with fire-fighting equipment.	Maybe.

9. Energy efficiency, pollution prevention, and cleaner production

9.1. Does the activity use renewable energy sources? If yes, describe the energy sources.	No.
9.2. Does the activity require use of energy efficiency equipment? If yes, describe the energy efficiency requirement. Grantee will opt for the procurement of energy-efficient equipment (class A+), produced in the EU, in compliance with technical and environmental requirements.	Maybe.
9.3. Does the activity promote pollution prevention and cleaner production measures? If yes, describe the measures. The new items, made in EC, include safety and energy consumption standards.	Maybe.
9.4. Does the activity promote maximum reliance on green building or green land-use approaches? If yes, describe the approaches.	No.

10. Waste management

10.1. List any National, European Union, or other international solid waste disposal or storage regulations or standards applicable to this activity. (Non-yes/no question) Law No. 209/2016 on waste.	
10.2. List any National, European Union, or other international hazardous waste disposal or storage regulations or standards applicable to this activity. (Non-yes/no question) Directive 2012/19/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste electrical and electronic equipment.	
10.3. Describe the local capabilities and facilities for solid, hazardous, and recyclable wastes. (Non-yes/no question) In the Balti municipality, there are specially arranged places for the separate collection of waste. USARB has contract with specialized company in waste management (I.M."DRCD" Balti) that provide all waste management.	
10.4. Will the activity generate nonhazardous solid wastes such as construction debris, packaging material, or nontoxic byproducts? If yes, describe expected types and quantities of solid waste and the plans for reuse, recycling, and disposal. All materials necessary for the grant activity will be delivered in packaging. The grantee will only unpack and, if necessary, assemble the articles, so that an adequate management of packaging waste is necessary throughout the project activity. Grantee and USARB will promote the reuse or recycling of packaging waste.	Yes.

10.5. Will the activity involve the generation and disposal of hazardous waste, such as solvents, acids, caustics, toxics, or other chemicals? If yes, describe the plans for disposal of these hazardous chemicals.	No.
10.6. Will the activity involve lead paint or lead-painted building components? If yes, describe the plans for disposal of lead paint containers or lead-painted debris.	No.
10.7. Will the activity involve the installation, use, or removal of asbestos-containing materials or building materials that may contain asbestos? If yes, describe the plans for disposal of waste asbestos containing materials.	No.
10.8. Will the activity involve disposal or retrofitting of equipment containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), e.g., electrical transformers or fluorescent light ballasts? If yes, describe the plans for disposal of PCB materials.	No.
10.9. Will the activity generate any other solid or hazardous wastes requiring specific recycling or waste management plans, such as batteries, fluorescent tubes, aerosol cans, or electronic wastes? If yes, describe the plans for disposal of these materials. Electrical, electronic waste and batteries (at the end of items' life) will be collected separately from other waste. In Balti municipality, there are recycling centers for electrical waste and there are special collection points for batteries. In addition, FTA will provide guidance to AO DNT and USARB about how to dispose IT equipment (including any batteries) when it reaches the end of its useful life. It is recommended to dispose of the equipment to a firm that is authorized to recondition or disassemble equipment into its component parts and recycle these parts. USARB is already familiar with this procedure as part of its university protocols.	Yes.

11. Pesticide Health and Safety Impacts

11.1. Will the activity involve use or onsite storage of pesticides? Pesticide use includes but is not limited to procurement, transportation, storage, mixing, loading, or application.	No.
11.1.1. If yes, identify the applicable PERSUAP, including DCN and expiration date.	
11.1.2. If yes, describe the types and quantities of pesticides.	
11.1.3. If yes, describe the pesticide storage conditions.	
11.1.4. If yes, describe the worker training requirements.	
11.1.5. If yes, describe the personal protective equipment (PPE) to be worn workers.	
11.1.6. If yes, describe public safety precautions.	
11.2. Will chemicals be used or stored at the site? If yes, describe the chemicals, quantities, and storage conditions.	No.
11.3. Will the activity potentially disturb soil contaminated with toxic or hazardous materials?	No.

12. Further Analysis of Recommended Actions (Most activities will have a threshold determinations of negative determination with conditions.)

12.1. ☐ **Categorical Exclusion:** The activity is not likely to have an effect on the natural or physical environment. No further environmental review is required.* (This is rarely used in the ERC/EMMP.)

12.2. ☒ **Negative Determination with Conditions:** The activity does not have potentially significant adverse environmental, health, or safety effects, but may contribute to minor impacts that can be eliminated or adequately minimized by appropriate mitigation measures. ERC/EMMPs shall be developed, approved by the Mission Environmental Officer (MEO) and the BEO **prior to beginning the activity**, incorporated into workplans, and then implemented. For activities related to the procurement, use, or training related to pesticides, a PERSUAP will be prepared for BEO approval, PERSUAPS are considered amendments to the IEE and usually Negative Determination with Conditions. See Sections H and I below.*

12.3. ☐ **Positive Determination:** The activity has potentially significant adverse environmental effects and requires further analysis of alternatives, solicitation of stakeholder input, and incorporation of environmental considerations into activity design. A Scoping Statement (SS) must be prepared and be submitted to the BEO for approval. Following BEO approval of the SS an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be conducted. The activity may not be implemented until the BEO clears the final EA. If the Parent IEE does not have Positive Determination as one of the threshold determinations, the IEE needs to be amended.

12.4. ☐ **Activity Cancellation:** The activity poses significant and unmitigable adverse environmental effects. Adequate ERC/EMMPs cannot be developed to eliminate these effects and alternatives are not feasible. The project is not recommended for funding.

Note regarding applicability related to Pesticides (**216.2(e): The exemptions of §216.2(b)(l) and the categorical exclusions of §216.2(c)(2) ***such as technical assistance, education, and training are not applicable to assistance for the procurement or use of pesticides.
Pesticide use is broadly defined at USAID and includes assistance with any of the following:

- Procurement, transportation, storage, mixing, loading, and application
- Management
- Fuel needed to transport pesticides
- Technical assistance in pesticide application
- Special payments, donations, free samples, and other forms of subsidies
- Credit provisions to beneficiaries

13. EMMPs and ROCs

13.1. Activity-specific environmental mitigation and monitoring plan (EMMP): Using the table provided below, list the processes that comprise the activity, then for each process, identify impacts requiring further consideration. For each impact, describe the mitigation and monitoring measures that will be implemented to avoid or to adequately minimize the impacts. All questions in Sections 5 through 12 with Yes or Maybe answers should be addressed. Upon request, the MEO may be able to provide your project with example EMMPs that are specific to your activity.

13.2. Annually (or more frequently if required by the Activity Manager/AOR /COR) and at the closeout of the activity, the IP shall prepare a Record of Compliance (ROC) to be submitted to the Activity Manager/AOR/COR. The ROC shall document how the mitigation and monitoring requirements were met. As appropriate, attachments such as site photos, permits, verification of local inspections, product warranties, etc. should be included in the ROC. The ROC shall be posted to the USAID Environmental Compliance Database (ECD).

Processes	Identified Environmental Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Monitoring Indicators	Monitoring and Reporting Frequency	Responsible Parties	Records Generated
Procurement:						
a)Services	Risk of performing poorly and delayed services, with impact on environment.	**1:** Contract experienced specialists / trainers to perform trainings to selected instructors and students. **2**: Assure the provision of transport services by companies authorized in the field, respecting the safety conditions of the staff/passengers and the transportation of necessary equipment for the practical courses operation. Ensure that selected companies /employees use best practices in their activity' field and avoid the environmental impact from their activities.	Authorized, experienced contracted companies. Checks of the provided services and final product /result.	Once during procurement evaluation. Periodically while services are being provided.	FTA Technical Lead; FTA Procurement Team; FTA Environmental Compliance Consultant; grantee's responsible person; Companies' experts.	FTA procurement documentation, reports, site visits, photos, invoices.
b)Items/goods	Risk of selecting items with technical and environmental specifications inappropriate to the project and environmental protection.	**1:** Identify clear selection criteria for all equipment considering its energy efficiency, technical parameters and sustainability, as well as its compliance with environmental norms. **2:** Assure that all equipment is purchased from certified manufacturer. Verification of the purchased items quality, presence of installation information, and warranty.	Goods purchased from certified manufacturer. Technical parameters and level of environmental compliance of the selected items verification. Collect certifications, warranty information, and user manuals/installation instructions (if applicable) for all items.	Once during procurement evaluation. Once during goods/items use.	FTA Technical Lead; FTA Procurement Team; FTA Environmental Compliance Consultant; Grantee' experts.	FTA procurement documentation, including bids and evaluation summaries.

Processes	Identified Environmental Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Monitoring Indicators	Monitoring and Reporting Frequency	Responsible Parties	Records Generated
Installation, use and maintenance	Risk of improperly stored, installed, maintained or used of new equipment/items with adverse impact on environment and people health.	**1:** The grantee will employ authorized worker / company for items' installation /connection (the presence of PPE is necessary). The service providers and grantee will be responsible for environmental compliance in all stages of the project. **2:** Specialized employees will be responsible for right using of items. Instructions and safety resources should always be easily accessible for employees. **3:** Designated employees should complete regular maintenance to ensure that the items/equipment remain in good condition. Ensure equipment/ items are fully powered off before initiating maintenance. **4:** Ensure that fire safety equipment and first aid kit are located in the courses space and at least trainer/ lecturer knows the first aid procedure. Ensure that a fire safety plan is in place. **5:** Safely store and protect batteries, other supporting electronic and electrical equipment in a safe place to not be damaged or otherwise negatively affected.	Equipment and materials installed by qualified contractors. Continued safe use and storage of equipment and materials per manufacturer's instructions, which should remain easily available for relevant staff. Employees trained in proper use/handling of equipment. Regular maintenance of equipment. Fire safety plan, easily accessible for employees and regularly reviewed. Visual inspections and pictures of first-aid stations.	Once upon initial installation, then annually.	FTA Technical Lead; FTA Procurement Team; FTA Environmental Compliance Consultant; Grantee or USARB 'experts.	FTA procurement records on installation; FTA site visit reports; beneficiary's internal reporting on maintenance.

Processes	Identified Environmental Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Monitoring Indicators	Monitoring and Reporting Frequency	Responsible Parties	Records Generated
End of Useful Life	Improper disposal of items/ equipment may pose risk of harm to environment.	**1:** Assure that all equipment that has reached the end of its useful life (or in case if damaged/defected) is disposed to a firm authorized to responsibly either (a) recondition and resell this material or (b) disassemble this material into its component parts and recycle these component parts. Resulting waste or leftover materials that can be recycled will be sold to a recycling company. **2:** USARB have to have a Waste Management Plan (including e-waste management), updated as needed, with the promotion of separate collection, recycling, reuse of waste and provision of services in the field by authorized companies.	List of authorized firms in Balti or adjacent regions who provide re-use and recycling services (developed by grantee). Waste Management Plan that prioritizes regular recycling and development of contracts with relevant companies for such services.	Upon end of equipment's useful life	Beneficiary, USARB	Instruction for proper disposal of equipment, waste; contact information for authorized firms that provide these services, reports. Waste/disposal certificate

Certification of No Adverse or Significant Effects on the Environment

I, the undersigned, certify that activity-specific baseline conditions and applicable environmental requirements have been properly assessed; that environmental impacts and pesticide-related health and safety impacts requiring further consideration have been comprehensively identified; and that adverse impacts will be effectively avoided or sufficiently minimized by proper implementation of the EMMP(s). If new impacts requiring further consideration are identified or new mitigation measures are needed, I will be responsible for notifying the USAID COR/AOR, as soon as practicable. Upon completion of activities, I will submit a ***Record of Compliance with Activity-Specific EMMPs*** using a format approved by the MEO.

Doina Nistor
Digitally signed by Doina Nistor
Date: 2023.07.05 13:37:28 +03'00'

Name
Implementer Project Director/COP

Date

Approvals:

Brian Wittnebel
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Name
USAID COR/AOR

Date

Constantin Mihailescu
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Name
Mission Environmental Officer

Date

Concurrence:

Not required per DCN: 2021-MOL-011
Bureau Environmental Officer
Europe and Eurasia Bureau

Date

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